

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

One strong united voice for Minnesota workers

300 Hardman Avenue S.
South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 450-4990
(651) 455-1311 fax



www.afscmemn.org

211 West 2nd Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-0577
fax (218) 722-6802

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Betty McCollum
United States House of Representatives
1714 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum,

We are writing to urge you to continue to support the Affordable Care Act as it faces attempts by Congress to repeal it. The Affordable Care Act has already helped millions of Americans obtain and keep health care at a time when unemployment has skyrocketed and other employee benefits have been drastically reduced. A repeal of the Act would devastate America's working families.

As cost shifting measures rise in order to compensate for the expenses of those without coverage workers are left paying much higher premiums and deductibles than necessary. This has put an undue burden on hardworking individuals and families. The passage of the Affordable Care Act has mercifully relieved a large part of this burden and ensured that thousands of AFSCME members will continue to have the employer-sponsored health coverage that they have already negotiated.

Many American families, including AFSCME members, have faced financial ruin after reaching their lifetime limits on covered benefits. The elimination of lifetime insurance caps on essential health benefits will save thousands of families. Other portions of the law such as preventing insurance companies from rescinding coverage when a policy holder gets sick and allowing parents to keep adult children on their policies until age 26 are crucial to uninterrupted healthcare. The elimination of limits on coverage of pre-existing conditions for children under the age of 19 and the complete elimination by 2014 of limits on coverage for everyone with pre-existing conditions are also essential for keeping costs down and providing needed benefits to our members.

Additionally, shortages in health care workers are already putting patients in danger. The Affordable Care Act invests in the health care workforce - providing additional dollars to reverse the shortage of primary health care workers and increase staffing levels.

On behalf of the 43,000 workers in AFSCME Minnesota Council 5, we look forward to your help in preventing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and thank you for your previous support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Buesing in black ink.

Mike Buesing,
President
AFSCME MN Council 5, AFL-CIO

Handwritten signature of Eliot Seide in black ink.

Eliot Seide,
Executive Director
AFSCME MN Council 5, AFL-CIO

Handwritten signature of Jim Niland in black ink.

Jim Niland,
Political & Legislative Director
AFSCME MN Council 5, AFL-CIO

MB/ES/JN/mjs